

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN & SEWER COMMISSIONERS'**

3/9/09  
14

**MINUTES**

**Public Safety Building, EOC**

*February 18, 2009*

*7:00 PM*

Present: Chairman Rosenzweig, Selectmen Magee, Freidrichs, Knibbe and Berry, Town Manager Steve Ledoux, and Recording Secretary Maryjane Kenney. The meeting was not televised.

**I. CITIZENS' CONCERNS**

Mr. Kadlec made a request for union contract information and update. The Town Manager is working on getting people free to work that request.

**II. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND APPOINTMENTS**

None

**III. SELECTMEN'S BUSINESS**

**1. DISCUSSION OF 2010 BUDGET**

The Town Manager reviewed each item of the Level 1-7 of the Service Cuts. Taking all service cuts through level 4 we arrive at a number of \$27.2K. The question becomes where are we really? In the ALG side agreements things are carried in the town budget to show inside Proposition 2 ½ debts that the APS incurred that is carried on the School side of the ALG plan.

The Current ALG Plan shows a deficit of \$816K. The Town's share of the \$816K deficit is \$245K. If we find that there are deeper cuts on the municipal side the schools will take 70% of the cuts. If the schools get more money from the stimulus they will put that money into reserves.

Selectmen Knibbe asked the Chairman about the \$344K of side agreements. It has never showed up at ALG or been discussed at meetings. The schools cut personnel as they really don't have capital expenses, where as the municipal side cuts services. Steve Noone is asking to keep the numbers right; we are at level 4 and if we add back \$300K the municipal budget is still fine. The \$240K is not excluded debt. Level 4, \$27.2K includes debt. So by adding the side deals which is debt you are at 26.4K? No. the Town would be at \$26.8 (due to rounding) Selectman Freidrichs asked how many unfilled positions. The Town Manager replied three. She asked how many retiring and Mr. Ledoux replied none that he is aware of. The number includes the same percentage of health insurance contribution by the town. Mr. Ledoux replied you must approve this contract as it exists as we do not have a new one. Chairman Rosenzweig stated that the goal this evening is to look at the recommended cuts at each level to 4 or 5 and see where we are in agreement. Selectman Berry asked if the total cut of \$1.4M is from NESWC. The Town Manager replied that \$800K is from NESWC. Of \$27.2, \$718K is capital. However, an additional \$185K of capital sits in the trash and recycling enterprise fund budget. Selectman Magee wanted the underground tank kept in the budget as it needs to be removed. The fuel must be removed at the very least. The Town Manager agrees and will get it done. The Board is in agreement on all cuts from level one and two. Wetlands funds paid for Natural Resource vehicle so that is done and out of cuts. Item by item all agree to Level 3 service cuts. On budget Saturday Level 4 was the budget presented. At level 4 Mr. Ledoux stated with no salary increases; it is not ok to add personnel. In terms of the Reengineering Report, we have to cut funds out of the larger study but we can still do some cost saving planning. Moving on to level 5, Selectmen Magee and Knibbe would take out the entire

celebration budget. The combination with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July will save money and still give Acton a celebration. All the Selectmen agreed. Chairman Rosenzweig has concerns with building security, particularly the library. Selectman Freidrichs wondered if cable funds could be used for security. The Chairman would like details on Quarry Road expense; why is it a high priority this year? Water and icing has become an increasing problem over the years. Chairman Freidrichs and Knibbe said to take it out. Selectman Freidrichs would let the tractor go maybe one more year. Selectman Magee stated that safety of the employees driving is important. He also stated that sidewalks have additional costs associated with them such as plowing and upkeep and it is too expensive at this point. Selectman Knibbe would like to keep some sidewalk money as it goes to safety issues and people want them. Charlie Kadlec wanted sidewalks to go to Town meeting. Paving all agreed it is sad, but can be cut. The Town Manager will report back at the BOS meeting February 23rd with side agreement figures. Pat Clifford asked for information on Municipal Properties study at level 6. It is a space needs study. We are crowded in Town Hall and some of the properties are in need of repair; some are historical and the use of these spaces and the correct way to fill these spaces and communicate in these spaces is important. Selectman Magee would support the space needs study. Maybe move to level 6. Selectman Knibbe thought others have more merit. The Chairman said any planning especially a comprehensive plan saves money in the long run. Selectman Berry said we have not had the reserve conversation. The Chairman said that there \$2.3M in reserves to be used, but news on a daily basis could affect these numbers. Steve Noone is not in agreement with heavy use of reserves, but it is in the plan.

## **2. DISCUSSION OF COMING TO AGREEMENT, ALG CONSENSUS USE OF RESERVES**

Chairman Rosenzweig wanted to come to an agreement if the Board supports Fincom's suggestion of reducing reserves use to \$2M instead of \$2.3M? Selectman Magee would support \$2M, Selectman Freidrichs would support (if she had to choose between \$2M and \$2.3M) and Selectman Knibbe stated it would depend on the side agreements, if we do not need to go below level 4 she will support. She does not want to go to level 5. These numbers will be known at the Monday, February 23rd meeting and we will be able to make a decision. Schools vote budget on the 25<sup>th</sup> and ALG on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The Selectmen will likely have an open meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and will sign the warrant on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **3. PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION, PRIORITIES FOR ECONOMIC STIMULUS MONEY**

Chairman Rosenzweig would like to set a process for arriving at the top 5 priorities of our stimulus list. We can use weighted priorities. At the State level they have set up task forces, with knowledgeable folks on these committees. Selectman Freidrichs stated when you see the themes it will become clear how to prioritize our list and she recommends that we prioritize within those themes. Selectman Magee stated that Senator Eldridge apparently would like to know our priorities. We should be sure whatever it is it is shovel ready.

## **4. DISCLOSURE OF APPEARANCE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST, RYAN BETTEZ**

His property is near the village center not in it, many of the zoning issues would affect him or his property. It is not necessary to take a vote.

## **IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

Two items held (#5 and #6). On # 5 Selectman Freidrichs wanted it stated that the Board needs a consistent method for all requests from distressed taxpayer.

## **5. CONFIDENTIAL REQUEST FOR AID TO DISTRESSED TAXPAYER**

All agree.

## **6. REQUEST FOR REFINANCING OF MADISON PLACE LIP**

Selectman Magee had a few questions in regard to this request. It is a requirement if there is refinancing, in this case there is a different bank, so the State has signed off. The Selectmen also need to approve. All voted in agreement with the refinancing.

## **V. THERE WILL BE A NEED FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**

Selectman Magee moved to go into Executive Session for Contract Negotiations and Real Estate Negotiations and to return to regular session only to adjourn. He took a roll call vote. A roll call vote was taken and all voted in favor.

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Recording Secretary  
Maryjane Kenney

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Andrew D. Magee, Clerk

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Date

## Maryjane Kenney

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**From:** Christine Joyce  
**Sent:** Friday, March 06, 2009 9:13 AM  
**To:** Maryjane Kenney  
**Subject:** FW: minutes review, february 18th

-----Original Message-----

From: terraf [mailto:terraf@compuserve.com]  
Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2009 4:56 PM  
To: Christine Joyce; Lauren Rosenzweig  
Subject: minutes review, february 18th

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please change:

Selectman Magee would support \$2M, Selectman Freidrichs would support, and Selectman Knibbe stated it would depend on the side agreements, if we do not need to go below level 4 she will support.

to:

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i wanted to cut more...

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Please change:

"Selectman Freidrichs stated when you see the themes it will become clear how to prioritize our list."

to:

Selectman Freidrichs stated when you see the themes it will become clear how to categorize things on our list. [And she recommended that we prioritize within those themes.] *Change*